

## Message Text

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60  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13 /073 W  
----- 075623

R 301145Z JUL 76  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5668  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR EG LE XF  
SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NEGATIVE ON SYRO-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 4969 (B) BEIRUT 6676

1. CAIRO DAILIES PROMINENTLY FEATURE SIGNING OF SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN ACCORD, NOTING DISAGREEMENT WITHIN PLO RANKS (REF A). ACCORDING TO PRESS, ARAFAT CALLED SAID KAMAL JULY 29 AND ASKED HIM TO ISSUE OFFICIAL STATEMENT IN NAME OF PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION COMMAND SAYING IT HAD NO INFORMATION ON "SO-CALLED AGREEMENT" AND THAT AGREEMENT STILL UNDER STUDY. PAPERS ALSO MADE ONLY BRIEFEST REFERENCE TO ROLE OF LIBD PIPM JALLUD.

2. EGYPTIAN REACTION. EGYPTIANS, UNHAPPY WITH ARRANGEMENT, ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN EXPRESSING SUITABLE PUBLIC REACTION

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AND THERE HAS BEEN NO SPECIFIC OFFICIAL MENTION OF IT.

GUMHURRIYA THREW COLD WATER ON EFFECTIVENESS OF AGREEMENT  
WITH ANALYSIS ATTRIBUTED TO "POLITICAL OBSERVERS" (I.E. PROBABLY  
MFA) WHICH "POINTED OUT" THAT:

--AGREEMENT IS PRODUCT OF SYRIAN COERCION. SYRIA ABLE TO  
DICTATE ITS TERMS ON BASIS OF ITS PRESENCE IN LEBANON AND  
AGREEMENT THEREFORE MAKES NO MENTION OF SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL,  
"MAIN LEBANESE NATIONALIST-PALESTINIAN DEMAND".

--AGREEMENT IS ATTEMPT BY SYRIA TO CONTAIN AND CONTROL PLO.

--NO LEBANESE NEGOTIATOR TOOK PART IN CONCLUDING AGREEMENT  
AND SYRIA SPOKE ON BEHALF OF LEBANON.

--AGREEMENT IS "CRUEL LESSON" TO PLO WHICH SHOULD TEACH  
IT IN FUTURE TO ABJURE "AXIS POLICY" AND "FRAGMENTATION  
OF NATIONAL PALESTINIAN ACTION."

"OBSERVERS" HOPE THAT AGREEMENT WILL LEAD TO END OF  
BLOODSHED, BUT THIS "CANNOT BE REALIZED WITHOUT SYRIAN  
WITHDRAWAL."

3. ON OTHER HAND, GUMHURRIYA TOOK THE HIGH ROAD ON  
EDITORIAL PAGE, PROCLAIMING "EVERY ZEALOUS ARAB" WELCOMES  
NEWS OF CEASE FIRE (NOT OF AGREEMENT AS SUCH) AS POSSIBLE  
END TO BLOODSHED, NEW HOPE FOR SURVIVAL OF PALESTINIAN  
RESISTANCE AND, CONSEQUENTLY, PALESTINIAN CAUSE, AND  
STEP TOWARDS RESTORATION OF ARAB SOLIDARITY.

4. ALLEGED MARONITE REACTION TO AGREEMENT: MEANWHILE, AHRAM ALSO  
TENDS TO SKEPTICISM IN REPORTED "REJECTION" OF AGREEMENT  
BY CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL. BOTH SAID TO DEMAND  
DISTRIBUTION OF PALESTINIANS THROUGH ARAB COUNTRIES,  
ALTHOUGH REPORT NEGLECTS TO MENTION INDICATION IN GEMAYEL'S  
COMMENTS (AFP) THAT AT LEAST SOME PALESTINIAN PRESENCE  
WOULD BE TOLERABLE.

5. ISRAELI ARMS SHIPMENTS TO MARONITES: GUMHURRIYA NOTES TIME  
MAGAZINE REPORT THAT ISRAEL HAS SECRETLY SHIPPED "HUGE QUANTITIES  
OF SOVIET ARMS" INCLUDING TANKS, TROOP CARRIERS AND GUNS TO  
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JOUNIEH. PAPER CLAIMS TO HAVE LEARNED THAT DELIVERIES RESULT  
FROM PHALANGIST-ISRAELI TALKS IN ROME AND WERE FINANCED BY RICH  
LEBANESE CHRISTIANS.

6. AHRAM EDITORIAL SCORES CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL FOR  
"OUTBIDDING EACH OTHER IN EXTREMISM IN ORDER  
TO GAIN CONTROL OVER MARONITES". CLAIMS, HOWEVER, THAT REAL  
PROBLEM IS NOT CHAMOUN BUT SYRIA, WHICH HAS LET ITSELF

BE USED IN STRIKING AGAINST PALESTINIANS, "WIPING ITS NATIONAL IMAGE IN THE DIRT". WHEN WILL SYRIA WAK UP, EDITORIAL ASKS.

7. MILITARY. COVERAGE LIGHT AND INCONSISTENT. AHRAM NOTED REDUCTION IN FIGHTING FOLLOWING SIGNING OF AGREEMENT WHILE AKHBAR HEADLINES "GRAVE ESCALATION" OF COMBAT IN BEIRUT.

8. YEMENIS IN ASF. AL HAS ASKED SANA TO CONTRIBUTE A BATTALION TO ARAB SECURITY FORCES. YEMENI AMBASSADOR TOLD PRESS TROOPS ARE READY TO GO AND WILL BE TRANSPORTED BY KUWAITI AIRCRAFT.  
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## Message Attributes

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